AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims as amended are presented below. Additions to the claims are shown underlined, while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

27. (Previously Presented) A device for precisely locating a wound in a blood vessel, comprising:

an elongate tube having a proximal end, a distal end, and an elongate lumen, the tube being configured to slidably accommodate a guidewire therewithin; and

at least two indicator holes through an outer wall of the tube and communicating with the lumen, a distance between the distal end and each of the indicator holes being substantially the same.

28. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 27, wherein a guide point is defined on the tube proximal of the indicator holes a distance at least equal to a thickness of a blood vessel wall.

29. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 28, wherein the distance is at least about .5~~—2~~ mm.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 28, wherein the distance is slightly larger than a thickness of a human femoral artery wall.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 28 additionally comprising a source of suction communicating with the lumen.

32. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 31, wherein the ~~tubeb~~ tube comprises a substantially transparent portion configured to enable a clinician to identify fluid being sucked through the lumen.

33. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 31 additionally comprising a retractor having at least two elongate retractor members, each of the members having a distal end.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 33, wherein the retractor members are releasably mounted onto the tube so that the distal ends of the retractor members are positioned at the guide point.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 27, wherein a main body of the elongate tube is defined proximal the indicator holes, and the tube tapers from the distal end to a

point generally adjacent the indicator holes so that a raised portion is formed generally around the indicator holes, the tube having a greater diameter in the raised portion than in the main body.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 35, wherein a guide point is defined on the tube proximal of the indicator holes a distance at least equal to a thickness of a blood vessel wall, and the guide point is disposed proximal of a proximal end of the raised portion.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 27, wherein the lumen concentrically surrounds a guidewire lumen, the guidewire lumen communicating with a distal opening formed along a longitudinal axis of the tube and being adapted to slidably accommodate a guidewire threaded therethrough.

38. (Previously Presented) A device for locating a vascular wound, comprising:

a retractor comprising two elongate members adapted to move relative to each other between open and closed positions, each member having a distal end and a proximal end, and the members are adapted to define a longitudinal channel therebetween when in the closed position; and

a catheter comprising:

a lumen connected to a source of negative pressure;

an opening formed through an outer wall of the catheter and communicating with the lumen; and

a guide point defined on an outer surface of the catheter proximal of the opening, a longitudinal distance between the opening and the guide point being at least the same as the thickness of a vascular vessel wall;

wherein the distal ends of the retractor members are positioned at or adjacent the guide point.

39. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 38, wherein the guide point comprises a notch formed in the catheter.

40. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 38, wherein the catheter has a distal opening and a proximal opening, and the catheter is adapted to slidably receive a guidewire through the distal and proximal openings.

41. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 38, wherein the catheter comprises a first lumen and a second lumen, the first lumen being adapted to slidably accommodate a

guidewire therethrough, the second lumen concentrically surrounding the first lumen, communicating with the opening, and being connected to the source of negative pressure.

42. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 41, wherein the longitudinal distance between the guide point and the opening is slightly greater than a wall thickness of a human femoral artery.

43. (Currently Amended) A device as in Claim 38, wherein the distance is ~~between~~ at least about 0.5~~–2~~ mm.

44. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 43 additionally comprising a raised portion of the catheter surrounding the opening, the catheter having a greater diameter in the raised portion than in adjoining portions of the catheter.

45. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 44, wherein the guide point is positioned proximal of a proximal end of the raised portion.

46. (Currently Amended) A device as in Claim 45, wherein the guide point is at least about .5~~–1.5~~ mm proximal the proximal end of the raised portion.

47. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 43 further comprising a second opening through the catheter outer wall, the second opening located substantially the same distance from the catheter distal end as the first opening.

48. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 43, wherein the retractor additionally comprises a handle portion operatively connected to the movable members.

49. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 48, wherein the channel extends the entire length of the movable members.

50. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 48, wherein the handle portion comprises two handles and a locking mechanism, and the handles are operatively connected at a hinge.

51. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 50, wherein the handles and hinge are adapted so that squeezing the handles together moves the movable retractor members apart from each other.

52. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 51, wherein the handles are biased apart from each other.

53. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 50, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a toothed arcuate stop member extending from a first handle and a release member

extending from a second handle, and the release member includes a stop adapted to releasably engage the stop member teeth.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Jackson for the courteous telephonic interview with Applicants' counsel, Glen Nuttall, on March 29, 2004. During the interview, Claims 29, 32, 43 and 46 were discussed. The above amendment was made to Claim 32 in order to correct a typographical error. The above amendments to Claims 29, 43 and 46 were made to more closely align the claims with the specification. The Examiner agreed that the amendments are appropriate.

The specification was also discussed during the interview. Specifically, the amendments to the specification set out above were discussed. The amendments to pages 14 and 17 refer to a "guide point" in non-limiting examples of the use of the term "guide point" in the claims. The specification as filed did not refer to reference number 153, which was included in the drawings as filed. The amendment to page 22 refers to the area originally set out in the drawings as reference number 153, and thus aligns the specification with the drawings. The Examiner agreed that the amendments to the specification do not add new matter.